

IN THE CLAIMS:

The rewritten claims in this application are as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of sending mail by means of electronic mail, wherein a sender supplies to a mailing receiver mailing information including addressees and mail contents for distribution of mail to the addressees, said method comprising the steps of: entering the mailing information into a computer system having a database that contains electronic mail addresses of addressees; transmitting the mail contents by electronic mail to addressees who have an electronic mail address and who have consented to receive electronic mail from the sender; sorting out for delivery as physical mail that mail intended for addressees who have not consented to receive electronic mail from the sender; and upon expiration of a predetermined time period from when electronic mail was sent sorting out addressees who have not responded to the electronic mail and sending them the mail contents by physical mail.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the database includes physical addresses of the addressees.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, including the step of transmitting to the mailing information receiver information relating to those addressees who have answered their electronic mail.

Kindly add the following new claim:

--4. A method according to claim 3, including the step of sending the mail contents by